

CHICAGO FOR SILVER.

The Record Voting Contest Results in a Big Majority For Free Coinage.

Of a total of 12,936 ballots cast in The Record's test vote on the silver question, excluding the few fraudulent and duplicate votes, 8,028 are in favor of the immediate free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1, without regard to other nations, and 4,908 are against the proposition. In other words, a little more than 62 per cent. of the voters favor and not quite 38 per cent. oppose the free coinage of silver at the proposed ratio.

There was much less opposition to free silver among the women who voted than among the men, three-fourths of all the feminine votes being cast in the affirmative. Of the men's votes 7,838 are for free silver coinage and 4,815 are in the negative.

In accordance with the previous announcement in The Record the contest was brought to a close last evening at 6 o'clock.

The vote on the last day was heavier than usual, and the free-silver people had nearly everything their own way. Nearly 1,000 ballots were received, making the total almost 13,000. There were 703 votes for free silver, and only 260 for the single standard. The proportion of negative votes, 27 per cent. was with one exception smaller than on any previous day of the three weeks' balloting. The advocates of free coinage seem to have made a special effort on the closing day in order to counteract any sudden gains their opponents might make, and swell the free-silver majority as much as possible. The gold-standard vote was very little larger than the average.

The free-silver people in the 3d ward made a final effort yesterday which materially changed the aspect of the ward vote. The opponents of free silver had what they considered a safe majority in that ward, but the last day's ballots gives the double standard a majority of 13. The free-silver people forged ahead also in the 4th ward, where they have a majority of 37 at the close. The 25th and 32d wards are the only ones in which the totals show majorities for the gold standard. The opponents of free silver made a very strong showing yesterday in the 6th and 29th wards, but it was not sufficient in either case, to overcome the free-silver majority.

Here are some expressions of opinion on the silver question by voters:

The Rev. D. T. Phillips—"I was a long time making up my mind before sending in my vote. This silver question has been to me a most perplexing one. I wanted to read up on the question. I have a scrap-book at home, in which excerpts from The Record and other matter have been pasted, and they have helped me more effectually than

any book published on this vexatious subject. For years I did my share in ridiculing the free-silver advocates. Ever since the debate between Messrs. Harvey and Laughlin I have made a special study of the subject. I had hoped that Prof. Laughlin would pulverize Harvey and his arguments into the finest powder. I was greatly disappointed in the professor, while Mr. Harvey not only astonished me with his argumentative presentations but succeeded also in knocking out what prejudices I had against the free-silver craze. My conversion to bimetalism dates from that memorable night. I have carefully and studiously read ever since on both sides of the controversy, and I am satisfied now that free silver has the best of the argument."

J. L. Reade—"I voted for the free and unlimited coinage of silver because I never have seen the time when any person in the world had too much money. I have never seen the time when anything that the United States placed its seal of value on—whether gold, silver, copper, nickel or paper—wouldn't bring its face value in any commodities or necessities of life. Silver is money now and always has been and always will be, and its demonetization is only a conspiracy of the money-changers of Europe, who have made a cat's paw of the United States, destroying one of its chief productions and sources of prosperity. This has been a blow at our agricultural and manufacturing interests, for these money-changers are able to buy our silver at a 50 per cent. rate and buy wheat and other products in China, Japan, India and all the south American states at its full face value. This measure has ruined our money interests and has driven the miners out of the mines. It has ruined all the west, and the deserted homesteads and the want that is stalking through the land are a consequence of this conspiracy. The money today of all the people is in the hands of the few, and they make money plenty or scarce as they please. What we want is the free and unlimited coinage of silver. We want the mines to be beehives of industry. We want the west to again be prosperous. We want the poor fellows

who have spent their lives working and bringing up a family to have a chance to pay the mortgages off their homes and to educate their children."

Dr. G. R. Burney—"I voted yes. Why should any good American citizen vote otherwise who knows and appreciates the resources of his country? Why are our mining interests sleeping? Because we cannot mine gold without pouring its silver brother into the gulches. The omnipotent power placed silver and gold together in our American mines. The silver obtained has always paid for the mining and milling of gold. With the loss of silver no man cares to run his mines at an expense against his output of gold. I returned from California last fall, leaving a country of idle miners and idle men. It is the same in Colorado and Nevada today. F. H. Cooper has the right idea, and I hope to see more of our business men follow his example. Give us more silver and let us pay our small debts. We can pay interest on our large ones if we get silver enough."

—Chicago Record.

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